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9 SEP 1961

9 [illegible] 1961

Honorable Frank B. Ellis
Director
Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Ellis:

Thank you for your letter of September 7 with which you enclosed the copy of Senator Stuart Symington's letter to you, dated September 6, quoting Mr. Dulles and me with reference to the declassification of the strategic materials stockpile.

I consider that Senator Symington's quotation is substantially correct. As Mr. Dulles pointed out to you in his letter of 28 July 1961, we have no official membership on the Interdepartmental Materials Advisory Committee but have had an observer present at most of the meetings of that committee for the purpose of commenting on the intelligence aspects of the problem. As Mr. Dulles also noted, our views have consisted of two main points: 1) we would very much like to have this kind of stockpile information pertaining to the USSR, and 2) the classified information pertaining to U. S. stockpiles would be of at least some limited intelligence value to the USSR. However, we did point out to Senator Symington that if, from a policy point of view, there are good and sufficient reasons for declassifying the information concerning U. S. strategic materials stockpiles we did not consider the matter important enough from our viewpoint to take a stand against such declassification.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

C. P. Cabell
General, USAF
Acting Director

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